inducted five and eight aircraft respectively on dry lease basis during the period 1998-1999 to 2001-2002.

Helicopter Service for North-Eastern Region

1350. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the helicopter services connecting major North-Eastern cities for VIPs and as well as general public;

(b) if not, whether these services would be provided as per schedule or request; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has been providing helicopter services under the aegis of Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya.

A Dauphin helicopter of PHHL is also deployed at Guwahati by the Ministry of Home Affairs every year from October to May for transportation of VIPs and other senior officials.

Government has also agreed to provide 75% as susidy for helicopter operations in the State of Tripura by PHHL.

PHHL has also submitted proposals to Governments of Nagaland and Mizoram for operation of helicopters in these States. However, both States have not responded so far.

Delay In Leasing Out of Airports

1351. DR. T. SUBBRAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to lease out major airports could not take off due to the delay in amending the Airports Authority of India's Act;

(b) if so, whether Government have been forced to look for alternate avenues to bring about private participation to improve infrastructure at the four major airports;

(c) if so, what alternative avenues are being considered by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(d) by when final decision to lease out airports would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d): Action was initiated for restructuring of the four metro airports through long-term leasing route, consequent to Government's decision to this effect in January, 2000. All preparatory work for restructuring of the four metro airports is continuing concurrently to the consideration of the AAI (Amendment) Bill, 2000 by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism. No decision has been taken by the Government so far on alternative avenues. The target date for restructuring as mentioned in the budget speech is 31.3.2003.

Losses Incurred By AAI Due to Advertising

1352. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation is faced with an advertising rights scam which caused loss Rs. 21.6 crore to the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, whether CBI was investigating the case on which AAI officials and a Delhi based-company are allegedly involved;

(c) if so, what were the main allegation made;

(d) whether the CBI has submitted its report; and

(e) what action has been taken against those responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) on 26.3.2002, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against some officials of Airports Aurhority of India (AAI) and M/s TDI International Pvt. Ltd. It is alleged that certain officials of the AAI during the period 1995-96 entered